

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application of parent patent application serial No. 09/733,228. Claims 17 - 35 are pending. Claims 1 - 16 have been cancelled. Claims 17, 19, 20, 21, and 23 have been amended. Claims 24 - 35 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully request an action on the merits.

The parent application (serial No. 09/733,228) to this divisional application was originally filed on December 8, 2000, with 23 claims. In a telephonic discussion with an Examiner, the Examiner identified that claims 1 - 23 were subject an election requirement with claims 1 - 16 being in Group 1 and claims 17 - 23 being in group 2. Applicants provisionally elected Group 1, claims 1- 16, telephonically, which was later confirmed in an Amendment dated May 20, 2002, included as Attachment 1. In the Amendment filed on May 20, 2002, included as Attachment 1, Applicants elected the species of Fig. 1 (claims 1 - 16) and canceled claims 17 - 23 without prejudice.

In the present application, Applicants are pursuing original claims 17 - 23. New claims 24 - 35 have been added and are consonant with original claims 17 - 23.

Applicants have enclosed herewith a PTO-Form 1449 identifying references potentially relevant to this invention. The references identified on the PTO-Form 1449 include references cited by the Examiner and the Applicants during the prosecution of the parent application. Copies of the references are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

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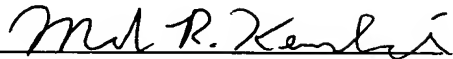
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An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

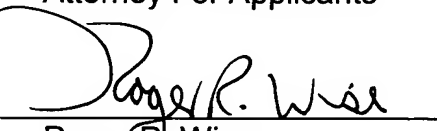
Respectfully submitted,

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